

*1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment*

# Regulars, by God!

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March 15, 2006

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## FROM THE COMMANDER

Hello once again from FOB FALCON in southern Baghdad! Time continues to race by and we are already at the end of our third month. The task force is doing incredibly well and I am very proud of our Soldiers for all that they have accomplished. I wish that I could tell you all of the successes we have had in our area in the past month – but they will have to wait for the history books.

This past month, we have engaged and killed terrorists with direct fire, detained insurgents, found caches, discovered and disarmed IEDs, dropped bombs from air force aircraft, fired counterfire with our mortars...and the list goes on. Our Soldiers have earned their Combat Infantryman's Badges, Combat Action Badges, Combat Medical Badges, and, unfortunately, some Purple Hearts as well.

While the combat operations are important, we are also helping rebuild the infrastructure of our area through funded projects that are identified and initiated by our Soldiers. For example, we are helping repair roads, renovate schools and provide them with supplies, clean canals, establish wells for fresh drinking water, repair electrical lines, and provide supplies to medical clinics. Suffice it to say that the insurgent population is in rapid decline due to our combat operations while we continue to gain greater and greater support from the Iraqi people.

Although sectarian violence has spread throughout most of Iraq and the national media sometimes talks of an imminent civil war, our area of operations has remained relatively quiet and our forces have ensured that security prevailed. Together with the Iraqi Security Forces, we have kept the ethnic tensions down through focused combat operations, surging our combat power to potentially volatile areas, engaging local leaders and reiterating our expectations of their support, and showing the people of Iraq that a better way of life exists. We have seen great improvements in the past month and are encouraged by the many signs of progress.

As mentioned above, we have spent a great deal of time this past month finding the leaders in each community and meeting the tribal leaders – the sheiks. Although official government structures exist, the continuing thread of the Iraqi culture is the tribal system and, at least for now, the tribal leaders exert more influence on the population than the democratically elected government. As a result, we are engaging both the formal government and tribal leaderships to gain their cooperation in bringing stability and security to the area.

Our Iraqi Army partners continue to share the hardships and risks associated with counterinsurgency warfare and their commitment to Iraq is encouraging. We do not execute any mission without them and their integration is critical to the long-term goals of this region. They improve each day and will soon be able to conduct independent operations as part of our overall plan for the area.

Unfortunately, D/2-502 IN was detached from us this month and sent back to serve with their parent headquarters for a specific mission. I have personally missed DAWG Company but they are returning to serve with us again in the coming days. As I have stated before, they are composed of great leaders and Soldiers.

We are all very proud of each one of our Soldiers that reenlisted this past month – we have had 28 great Americans raise their right hand and recite the oath. Any reenlistment is special and shows a commitment to our Army and to the nation, but reenlistment in a combat zone is even more distinctive and shows that our Soldiers knowingly and willingly accept the risks and hardships associated with our service. It is an affirmation that they are willing to fight and die for the ideals of our nation. I want to thank all of the family members of those who have reenlisted as well. Thank you for continuing to support your loved one as he continues to serve – you all have sacrificed as well and I thank you for your commitment and support.

If you have any concerns or need assistance, do not hesitate to contact the Rear Detachment Commander—CPT Warren Litherland. His duty is to assist our loved ones in the states while we conduct our mission here and he is doing a great job for all of us. The Rear Detachment's contact information can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

As always, you have every right to be proud of the Regulars and I am humbled to be associated with them—I consider it a privilege to lead them each day. Our efforts and success are only possible through your support and I cannot overstate how important it is to us. I also cannot tell you thank you enough for what you have already shown us. A special thanks goes to all of the ladies who continue to serve as Family Readiness Group Leaders. Your dedication to our unit and to our Soldiers is instrumental in what we do and words cannot express the thanks and admiration I have for you. Please keep all of the Regulars in your thoughts and prayers.

Regulars, by God! Deeds, Not Words.

— Lieutenant Colonel Craig A. Osborne (Regular 6)



*LTC Osborne Meets with One of the Local Sheiks of the Al-Jabouri Tribe*



*LTC Osborne Discusses the Procedures to Inspect an Iraqi Ministry of Defense Unit with Its Commander*

## FROM THE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

Hello Folks,

Hard to believe another month has come and gone, but the time seems to be passing rapidly here. We are officially one-quarter complete with our deployment, and, again your “Regulars” have accomplished another month of exceptional performance here in Baghdad, Iraq. Each day

that goes by, your Soldiers are getting better and better at their jobs, learning the area of operations, and refining their skills necessary to complete this mission. Again, I am incredibly pleased and proud of all of them.

There has been a lot of discussion this month about the future of the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and its projected upcoming move to Fort Carson, Colorado. The Soldiers have been presented with seven options of which they have been asked to choose one. These options are very broad-spectrum and incredibly generous in nature. I would have personally expected to be presented with only two options – “Stay in and go where we tell you” or “Leave the Army”, but the generosity of the division and the Army has impressed me on this one.

Just to recap the choices, here are the options:

1. Stay at Fort Hood with 3<sup>rd</sup> Squadron of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment – this unit will soon be moving to Fort Hood and will need good Soldiers to fill their ranks. This option is best for someone looking for at least three more years on Fort Hood.
2. Stay at Fort Hood with another unit (other than 3<sup>rd</sup> Squadron, 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment) – anyone wishing to stay with our beloved 1 BCT “Raider” Brigade should choose this option, or the Soldier can request any other unit that he/she desires to stay at Fort Hood with. If selecting to stay with 1 BCT, understand that this will mean a shorter stay on Fort Hood with an eventual move to Fort Carson, perhaps by 2008 or 2009.
3. Move to Fort Carson – to become part of the first 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division units standing up at Fort Carson. This option would provide the quickest move to Fort Carson for anyone desiring to go there quickly.
4. Move to Fort Carson as part of the Division Headquarters – this option would provide the same move to Fort Carson, but at a slightly later date, perhaps by the summer of 2007.
5. Move to a new duty station – this option gives the Soldier a chance to select a new duty station of his/her choice. Note – there are no guarantees on this choice. This is completely dependant on availability of assignments to the duty station of choice and MOS compatibility at that duty station. But, you never know until you ask.
6. PCS to a new duty station at the needs of the Army – for any Soldier who desires to leave Fort Hood and would rather let the Army pick an assignment for him/her, than this is their option.
7. ETS or Retire – for any soldier whose future plans include either ETS or retirement prior to January of 2008, then their desires should be honored by selecting this option. For any Soldier whose planned ETS or retirement occurs after January 2008, then he/she will have to choose one of the first six choices.

Our division is asking that all of our Soldiers and families consider these options carefully. Initially, we were asked to provide our choices not later than the 15th of March; however, that has been pushed back to a date later in the deployment so that Soldiers and families can have more time to make their decision. In any case, the earliest most Soldiers can expect to change units or duty stations should be March of 2007. And lastly on this subject, there are no guarantees given for any of these choices. The needs of the military will always come first and foremost.

My advice to all, when considering the choices above, is to concentrate on getting through this deployment first. Consider your options, discuss them with your spouse or family members, but concentrate on the task at hand – getting these great American Soldiers home safely upon completion of this very important mission here. The Soldiers of the Regular battalion are doing outstanding work over here and you should be proud of them all. Until next month, thanks for your great support to the battalion, and may God continue to bless America.

— Command Sergeant Major Richard Beal (Regular 7)



*CSM Beal On Patrol*

## A COMPANY – GATOR

I first want to welcome the newest Gators:

- SPC Bobby Irvin and his wife Rachel
- PV2 Brian Heath, his wife Ashley, and their son Kevin
- PV2 Michael Mackrell
- PV2 Bernardo Mariscal.
- PV2 Timothy Schenk and his fiancée Tiffany
- PV2 Justin Tucker

They arrived to Alpha Company in the early morning hours of March 11<sup>th</sup>. It is great to welcome new Soldiers to the Army and their first duty assignment. We'll do everything we can to quickly make them feel at home and we hope the same can be done at Ft. Hood for their families.

Congratulations are in order for our newly married soldiers – PV2 Allan Wood from 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon and PFC Maria Davila (attached to A Company from the Division's Special Troops Battalion) went home on leave together and were married. I would like to personally wish them the best of luck in their new lives together.

The Gators continue to execute fixed site security, battle squad, and detainee operations. In addition, we train on basic Soldier skills like dismounted patrolling techniques, land navigation, route and terrain analysis, marksmanship, and physical training. Collectively, we work on urban operations, mounted patrolling techniques, reporting procedures, vehicle recovery operations, and equipment maintenance. 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon is back to the battle squad mission and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon is on fixed site security.

PFC Michael Monahan from 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon has stood out recently for his understanding and employment of both lethal and non-lethal force. As an uparmored HMMWV gunner, PFC Monahan set the battalion standard for his decision-making and precise application of force. He taught Escalation of Force procedures to all of the officers in the battalion during an Officer Professional Development class and then put those skills and understanding to use as his squad found themselves in heavy vehicular and pedestrian traffic in downtown Baghdad. As the gunner in the lead vehicle, he quickly made many tough decisions on when to engage and when not to engage to get his squad's vehicles through the crowds and to assess the threat on the street.



*PFC Monahan*

PFC Brian Todd has distinguished himself while serving his time in support of the Division Holding Area. While always conducting himself in an exemplary manner, PFC Todd has provided excellent guidance to his younger peers and worked to complete over 200 hours of correspondence courses within the last month. His hard work while doing “hard time,” sense of humor and tireless work ethic has made him an irreplaceable member of the DHA guard force.



*PFC Todd at the DHA*



*PFC Todd at the DHA—Just Like the Detainees*

PFC Elliot Stewart, one of our medics, was recently recognized for his immediate aid to a Third Country National who had accidentally injected himself with an atropine injector. His quick decisions and expert medical care likely saved the man’s life and is another example of the caliber of Soldiers that we have in the company.

The Gators are doing well, and we hope this finds you well also.

—Captain Troy Parrish (Gator 6)

## **B COMPANY – BEAR**

The Bears have continued to do all that has been required of them in the past month. The weather is quickly warming, and is probably the most accommodating we will have for the next

several months. The rains have subsided over the past few weeks and the temperatures are quickly rising. Although there is much to be done, time is certainly beginning to pass quickly.

Our first groups of soldiers departed this month for leave. SPC Colt Barker was able to see his newborn son for the first time and SGT Aaron Sisk was able to return for the birth of his and wife Amanda's firstborn. We anticipate that all Soldiers who deployed in December will be given the same opportunity for leave between now and September.

Many Soldiers in the company recently participated in an operation to respond to the sectarian conflict that arose in the region in late February. In conjunction with the Iraqi Army, they provided the population with security during a turbulent time. During our continued operations, the vigilance of our 3rd Platoon and the Bradley crews of 1st and 2nd Platoons have prevented any IEDs from detonating in our area since I last wrote. The dismounted infantrymen's operations have seriously disrupted the insurgents in our area, as evidenced by the capture of a major insurgent cell leader in our area.

This month, our attached mortar squad – led by CPL Shaun Shiraki – fired the battalion's first mortar rounds intended for insurgent forces. They were extremely quick and accurate with their system which is a testament to their leadership and training. The Scout Platoon eagerly transitioned to their traditional reconnaissance duties in the past month – having previously been burdened with route security. We frequently still assign them infantry tasks, but it is only proof of their flexibility and leadership that they continue to be successful. Last, but certainly not least, our mechanics continued to work harder and longer than anyone as they maintained the vehicles that we never seem to treat as well as we should.

We would like to congratulate the following soldiers who have earned promotions this past month.

- PFC Daniel Clark to SPC
- PFC Aaron Crane to SPC
- PFC Michael Gates to SPC
- PFC Andrew Rose to SPC
- PFC David Schobey to SPC
- PFC Brandon Tennell to SPC
- PFC Russell Werneking to SPC
- PV2 Thomas Atkinson to PFC
- PV2 Deney Bryant to PFC
- PV2 Sinecio Galarza to PFC
- PV2 Min Yu to PFC
- PVT Davong Xiong to PV2

Finally, we'd like to congratulate the following soldiers on their decision to continue their service as evidence by their decision to reenlistment in the Army. We thank them and their families for their continued commitment and sacrifice.

- SSG Gilbert Delacruz
- SSG Timothy Jones
- SSG Paul Marler
- SPC Austin Fabacher
- SPC Jeffrey Henley
- SPC Scott Jones

I'd like to welcome the families of our twenty-one new Soldiers. They are quickly learning from their leaders and fellow Soldiers. Thank you all for your tremendous support, understanding, and prayers for our Soldiers.

—Captain Matthew Weber (Bear 6)



***Captain Weber Meets with Local Sheikh***



***SGT Valley and an Iraqi Sergeant Talk During an Assessment of a Local School***



***SPC Fabacher Conducts a Vehicle Inspection as Part of Operating a Traffic Control Point***



***2LT White Talks with Local Leaders About an Issue***



***PFC Ung Overcomes His Fear of Heights by Crossing One of the Many Canals in Our Area***

## C COMPANY – CHAOS

Over the last month we have been establishing a Patrol Base that we now operate from. We have built all the amenities such as picnic tables, bathrooms, and benches with plans of building a shower in the near future. We have made many new friends in the area to include the 20 or so children that we distributed soccer balls to and play with daily. We have a beautiful view of the Euphrates River – it is only about 100 yards away. We also have the responsibility to keep a Water Treatment Facility up and running that provides water to approximately 150,000 people.

There are two schools located in our area that we have recently adopted. We are currently working on fixing the facilities such as the water and sewage. There are about 300 children in each of the schools. The kids all walk to school and are between the ages of six and twelve. Their classes start at 0800 which requires them to leave home at 0600 in order to get a seat. The schools only fit about 150 students a day so it is first come, first served. They learn basic reading and writing – then return to work on the farms around 1100. I think passing our Soldiers on their way to school is the highlight of their day. I'm not sure if it is the smiles or the candy but they love our Soldiers.

I had a small accident while putting up concrete barriers. The concrete barrier slipped from the chain that was pulling it and landed on both of my feet. I was lucky that it only broke one of them. I get to wear a nice looking walking cast. As always, the Soldiers have many nicknames that include Iron Claw and Robo-foot. They were also so nice and put a handicapped sign where my vehicle parks.

Congratulations to SPC Kelley Martin and SPC Jeremy Tate for having healthy new additions to the CHAOS family. We also want to congratulate SSG James Bishop on his promotion.

—Captain John Robertson (Chaos 6)



*Chaos Tank Overcomes a Hastily Emplaced Enemy Obstacle*



*Smiling Children from the School We Visit Daily*

## D COMPANY – DEATH DEALER

The Death Dealers have been busy keeping the enemy on their toes. The enemy has to sleep with one eye open to make sure one of our Soldiers isn't coming through his window at night or digging up his cache while he is at work. The Soldiers of this company have been doing an outstanding job.

I would like to welcome some new soldiers that have arrived in theater. PFC Young, PVT Angulo, PVT Davis, PVT Davong, and PVT Zimniak – all from 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon of B Company arrived with SPC Ashworth who was reunited with us. PFC Rumsey, PVT Adams, and PVT Kirksey are recent additions to the Dealers and are just completing their integration training and preparing to execute missions with the Company.

I would also like to congratulate the Garrison, Cantell, and Nunez families who all recently had births. The Dealer family continues to grow and gives new hope to our Soldiers here that they can see miracles. Our thoughts and prayers are with the other Dealers' spouses who are expecting in the near future.

The Death Dealers have been very fortunate the past few months. A few of our Soldiers have been slightly wounded since we started combat operations but have been able to return to duty with their brothers. These Soldiers have demonstrated great sacrifice and will be awarded Purple Hearts for their actions. Over 80% of the company has already earned Combat Action Badges, Combat Infantryman Badges, or Combat Medical Badges in the past two months and I am looking forward to holding an awards ceremony in the future to honor our Soldiers' dedication and hard work.

Environmental Leave – along with other forms of in-theater passes – has begun for the company and many Soldiers are using the opportunity to go home and see their families. We will continue to send Soldiers as we get slots for these programs. I would like to thank Michele Ramon for her hard work the past few months keeping everyone informed as to what the company is doing. She is doing an outstanding job and makes things so much easier for the company to execute its mission knowing our families are being taken care of.

—Captain Jared Rudacille (Dealer 6)



*1LT Moore Talks to Local Children While on a Patrol*



*Dealer Soldiers and Iraqi Army Soldiers Patrol the Streets Together in our Area*



*SFC Oberwegner Conducts Pre-Combat Inspections on a Tank*



*SGT Holderby and SSG Venetz Stop to Help an Iraqi Recover His Dump Truck in Hawar Rajab*



*SGT Tajeron and CPL Burr Smile for the People Back Home*

## **E COMPANY – KILLER**

It has been three months now and our Soldiers continue their great work to get the mission accomplished. The 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Commanding General and the Assistant Division Commander for Maneuver have both met with the leadership in 1-75 CAV and have spoken highly of our Soldiers' continuing role and success in our mission. We continue to secure a Main Supply Route (MSR) that now covers nearly 40 kilometers as we continue to work alongside our Iraqi Army partners. Our goal is to train them well enough to eventually take over our Area of Operations.

Our Soldiers' hard work was recognized during a Squadron Awards Ceremony at the beginning of this month with 18 of our Soldiers being presented the Combat Action Badge (CAB) while our senior medic, SGT Guillermo Esparza, was awarded the Combat Medical Badge (CMB).

At times, the days seem a little long because of the resource constraints that challenge the Iraqi Army's abilities to conduct operations on their own; however, as each day passes and more combined missions are completed, we see marked improvements in both their headquarters, their supply systems, and their overall capability to plan, resource and complete missions on their own.

During this period, we have had to deal with a change of leadership in 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon. 1LT Gregory Elko joined us as part of Bravo Company, 299<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion and has led his platoon through Bradley transition; training and multiple gunneries; the casing of the 299<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion Colors; the platoon's deployment and training at both the Joint Readiness Training Center and the National Training Center; and his platoon's deployment to and employment in Iraq. I have personally seen his confidence and maturity as a leader grow over time, which has resulted in the continued success his platoon has achieved. He will bring a wealth of experience and knowledge as the Company Executive Officer for B Company in the future. 1LT Elko has done great things for this company and we wish him well in his new position.

We welcome 2LT James Hall as the newest member of our team. James is a Mechanical Engineering graduate from the United States Military Academy and hails from Estanica, New Mexico. Since his arrival, he has been extremely busy learning the Bradley fighting vehicle, interacting with two Iraqi Army companies, and taking over the responsibilities as the Platoon Leader for SAPPER Platoon.

In closing, I would like to highlight the reenlistments of SGT Ray Andrade, SPC Hilary Hosia, and SPC Nathaniel Kaelin and thank them for renewing their commitments to continue to serve their country despite the challenges they face every day. I am excited that we have great Soldiers like them who continue to lead and take care of our Soldiers in combat. As a commander, it continues to be a rewarding experience working day in and out with these outstanding Soldiers to get the mission accomplished.

—Captain Patsky Gomez (Killer 6)



*1LT Gregory Elko at FOB FALCON*



*2LT James Hall with His Bradley Fighting Vehicle*



*Members of the E CO CRT Relaxing in the Motor Pool on FOB STRIKER*

## **E COMPANY/4<sup>TH</sup> SUPPORT BATTALION – ELIMINATOR**

The last month was an extremely busy and productive month for the Eliminators. We continue to make improvements to our new home daily. The Maintenance Platoon moved into barracks which are closer to the motorpools. Headquarters Platoon and the Supply and Transportation Platoon were able to spread out a little in our original buildings. Led by the initiative of SSG Overturf, all walls have been painted and Soldiers are taking pride in the improvements made.

The Eliminators are doing amazing things. Our Headquarters Platoon has spent the majority of its time improving living conditions for the company, transporting food and water to B Company at a forward patrol base, maintaining command and control, and administratively taking care of our Soldiers. Our Maintenance Platoon is constantly building combat power. The equipment we signed for from outgoing units was not quite up to the Regulars standard but, thanks to our mechanics, we have put it back in operation. The Supply and Transportation Platoon is doing everything they can to ensure the Task Force receives all of the fuel and construction materials they need. Having a company outside of the FOB requires our Soldiers to really think ahead on planning and preparation. They are always willing to take the initiative and give our combat arms Soldiers everything they need.

During the last thirty days, our Soldiers have had the opportunity to work with the Iraqi Army. It was a company effort to reconstruct a Traffic Control Point for the Iraqi Army in our Area of Operations. Although not an easy task, our Soldiers truly enjoyed helping our Iraqi counterparts while understanding the importance of training these Soldiers to eventually take the reins from American Soldiers. The Supply and Transportation platoon recently spent countless hours emplacing barriers around a Mosque in our area in order to protect it from Anti-Iraqi Forces.

Congratulations to SPC John Riley and his wife Cynthia on the birth of Matthew Conner Riley – born February 25, 2006 at 7:49 a.m. He weighed 9 lbs, 8.6oz and was 21 in long.

We have had the opportunity to promote several Soldiers in the last month. The following Soldiers were promoted with an effective date of March 1, 2006:

- SSG Damon Howard to SFC
- SPC Ramon Escareno to SGT
- PFC Brandon Asbury to SPC
- PFC Michael Dorough to SPC
- PFC David Ebersole to SPC
- PFC Ryan Kiser to SPC

- PFC Kenneth Tucker to SPC
- PV2 Allegra Busier to PFC
- PV2 Candy Cook to PFC
- PV2 Jonathan Fender to PFC
- PV2 Mario Fleites to PFC
- PV2 John Green to PFC
- PV2 Randolph Lee to PFC
- PV2 Willie Rogers to PFC

The following Soldiers' birthdays will be celebrated on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March:

- CW3 Christopher Farmer
- SFC Richard Howell
- SSG Jeff Jesmore
- SSG Delinda Johnson
- SSG Luis Mojica
- SGT Ramon Escareno
- SGT Latavian Phipps
- SGT Ulises Zamora
- SPC Erick Anderson
- SPC Roger Peterson
- SPC Obed Verdugo
- PFC Kareem Braithwaite
- PFC Joshua Duggan
- PFC Ryan Fizia
- PFC Travis Russell
- PV2 Marcus Cain

Our Soldiers are proud of what they stand for and what they are doing.

—Captain Jennifer McDonough (Eliminator 6)



*SPC Hartman and 1LT Yamall Interact with Local Children While Emplacing Barriers Around a Mosque*



*Maintenance Platoon Soldiers Help Construct an Iraqi Army Checkpoint at Night*



*SGT Escareno Enters the Ranks of the NCO Corps*

# HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY – HAMMER

The men of Hammer Company continue to impress me each day with their professionalism, resourcefulness, physical stamina, determination, and commitment to the mission. They are asked daily to perform tasks that many other men would shrink from, but each time they rise to the occasion with great enthusiasm and with equally impressive results. I am proud to command and serve with them.

The Scout Platoon continued to provide the Personal Security Detachment (PSD) to the battalion commander and served as his security element as he traveled the battlefield. They have recently visited many local sheiks, assisting greatly to help maintain security throughout the region. Our scouts and snipers attached to B and D Companies have contributed greatly to capturing and killing some very dangerous insurgents. Their quick thinking and decisive action allowed the battalion to capture an enemy mortar team, several would-be bomb makers, and led to the detention of the number one terrorist in our local area.

The Mortar Platoon conducted many escort missions for the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team as they destroy IEDs that our battalion finds throughout our area. They also conducted patrols during the last week to help prevent Shia vs Sunni violence from erupting in the aftermath of the Golden Mosque bombing in Samara. Additionally, the mortars conducted several counter fire missions at enemy mortar positions that attacked our forces. They provide lethal, long-range fire support to the battalion and are extremely accurate.

The Medical Platoon continued to treat our wounded and helped keep the rest of us healthy through education and preventive medical procedures. We execute our missions with the confidence that our medics are superbly trained and will provide the best possible medical care should we require it.

The Bradley Fire Support Teams attached to each company have made great progress this month by identifying basic needs in many villages and recommending projects to improve the quality of life of the people. Though their efforts, the battalion submitted 18 projects to enhance the local economies and increase the quality of life in each village. The Fires and Effects Coordination Cell supervised several counterfire missions this month – creating uncertainty and fear in the hearts of the enemy mortar teams. Since our counter fire missions began, the battalion has seen a decrease in indirect fire attacks against us.

The Command Group, Staff, and Headquarters Section – in addition to our normal duties – focused efforts on interaction with local leaders, conducting village assessments, and preventing the outbreak of civil war. The staff works long hours – well past midnight on many nights. But it is this tireless effort and force of will that has provided the fuel for the small victories that we win everyday. In the short time our battalion has been in control of our Area of Operations, we have significantly disrupted the enemy's plans, and established promising, cooperative relationships with many sheiks and local leaders.

Congratulations to the following soldiers who were recently promoted:

- 1LT Kurt Gerfen (HQ) to CPT
- SSG Tiem Ambrose (S3) to SFC
- PFC Matthew Carpenter (Medics) to SPC
- PFC Matthew Snider (Medics) to SPC
- PFC Jacob Lutje (FECC) to SPC
- PV2 William Sifford (FECC) to PFC

Congratulations to SGT Steven Miller (S3) and SGT Jason Pollock (HQ) who passed the SSG board this month.

Also congratulations to the following that passed the SGT board this month:

- SPC Timothy Carr (S3)
- SPC Michael Kannitzer (Scouts)
- SPC Brian Keith (S1)
- CPL Michael Petty (Medics)
- SPC Ivan Santillanes (HQ)
- CPL Matthew Shaw (Medics)
- CPL Rodrock Vinson (S4)

Our admiration and thanks go to the following Soldiers for reenlisting and to their families for their continued dedicated service to and support of our nation:

- SGT Michael Gonzales (HHC)
- SGT Steven Holderby (HHC)
- SGT Steven Miller (HHC)
- SPC Benjamin White (HHC)
- SPC Roberto Villalobos (HHC)

Happy Anniversary to SGT Thomas Gutierrez and his wife who celebrated their anniversary on March 8th. Additionally, congratulations to PFC Carlos Garcia and his wife Candace, who were married one year ago on March 9th.

Congratulations to SGT Lino Presas and his wife on the birth of their son, Gabriel on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Congratulations also to SPC Benjamin White and his wife on the birth of their baby girl, Jennifer, on March 6th.

Our hearts are with you as you continue the difficult task of everyday life at home without us there to help. We admire all of your strength to keep things going. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we continue to defeat a determined enemy in this area. Know that the men of Hammer Company will live true to our motto of “Deeds not Words.”

God Bless You,

—Captain Craig Childs (Hammer 6)



*CPT Gerfen, CPT Childs, SGT Lyle, SGT Pollock, and SPC Santiago (in the Turret) at the Infamous Crossed Sabers in Baghdad*



*2LT Vincent With Local Children After Giving Them Soccer Balls and Other Gifts*



*PFC Garcia Gives Gifts to Local Children in the Town of Hawar Rajab*



*SSG Barker Conducts a Patrol Brief Prior to Departing on a Mission*



*SGT Miller and SPC Carr Pull Security at a Halt*

## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

When we arrived here we knew that in order for 110V electrical appliances to work, a transformer must be used to convert the 220 volt output to usable 110 volts. Without this transformer, none of these electrical items can be used here. Establishing an effective and usable connection is important not only for electrical items, but also for significant and meaningful relationships. How do we maintain connection from so many miles away? Is it possible to do this?

Jesus Christ maintains communication and connection with us even though he left earth and is now in heaven. In Matthew 28:20 Jesus tells us that he is “*with us always even to the end of the age.*” I believe we too can establish, maintain and even increase connection with loved ones during this time of geographical separation. The key for us is finding that “transformer” which allows us proper connection. What is this for you? Since more communication brings less stress overall, this may be creativity in our communication. Maybe it is the excitement of present and future possibilities as together we see opportunities instead of obstacles. Perhaps this “transformer” is living up to the promises we made to each other before deployment. Whatever this key is, you must find it with your Soldier here.

I talk often with your loved ones about life back home. This reminds us of life outside this current mission and helps us accomplish our mission better. I can tell you that remaining connected to family is a key issue here. It is vitally important to the health of your family that this

deployment be shared as much as possible. Realize that your Soldier cannot share operational information, but together you can share in family events, joys, sorrows and victories since these help us stay connected. Please do not allow this deployment to be a parenthesis in your family. (A time set aside without each other.) This time can and should be used constructively to keep connection through communication.

Wise use of this time will help ensure that when we come home the reunion will be so much sweeter and more enjoyable because we have kept proper connection. I promise you, as the Chaplain here, that I will keep asking your loved ones how you are doing. This forces responses and prompts actions which inevitably increases morale for everyone. Please understand our mission here does not always allow us to communicate with you as often as we might like. We all desire to redeploy back home when the time comes and staying properly connected will make this deployment more bearable for all of us. How do you want to feel the day your loved one comes off the plane? Connected or disconnected? The choice is yours...

—Chaplain (Captain) John Hill



*CSM Beal and CH (CPT) Hill on FOB FALCON*

## REENLISTMENTS

We continue to retain quality Soldiers in our Army through reenlistment. Reenlistment in a combat zone shows a great commitment to our nation and our Army...and the monetary bonuses are also tax free. Although the money is a nice incentive, our Soldiers continue to reenlist because they believe in what they are doing and want to be a part of something much larger than themselves. Our reenlistments have occurred in a variety of places ranging from a palace in Baghdad to the Spartan-like existence of a forward patrol base in our area. We congratulate and thank the 28 Soldiers and their families that have reenlisted in the past 30 days. Their names are:

- SSG Benjamin Bishop (E/4 SB)
- SSG Luis ColonSierra (E/4 SB)
- SSG Gilbert Delacruz (B CO)
- SSG Timothy Jones (B CO)
- SSG Jason Kincheloe (E/4 SB)
- SSG Paul Marler (B CO)
- SSG Erik Melemontoya (E/4 SB)
- SSG Carl Williams (E/4 SB)
- SGT Ray Andrade (E CO)
- SGT Jameon Avery (A CO)
- SGT Michael Gonzales (HHC)
- SGT Steven Holderby (HHC)
- SGT Jose Lopez (E CO)
- SGT Steven Miller (HHC)
- SGT Corey Smith (E/4 SB)
- SGT Paul Vincent (E/4 SB)
- SGT Robert Zukowski (D CO)
- SPC Brandon Asbury (E/4 SB)

- SPC Austin Fabacher (B CO)
- SPC Jeffrey Henley (B CO)
- SPC Hilary Hosia (E CO)
- SPC Scott Jones (B CO)
- SPC James Johnson (E CO)

- SPC Nathaniel Kaelin (E CO)
- SPC Jeremy Scaggs (E/4 SB)
- SPC Benjamin White (HHC)
- SPC Roberto Villalobos (HHC)
- PFC Matthew Swanson (D CO)



*SGT Miller from HHC Reenlists at the Al-Faw Palace in Baghdad*



*Ssg Jones from B CO Reenlists at Patrol Base 2*



*SGT Andrade, SGT Stewart, and SPC Hosia from E CO Take a Picture with LTC Osborne and CSM Beal After Reenlisting in Baghdad*



*Ssg Kincheloe and SPC Asbury from E/4SB Reenlist on an M88A2 Recovery Vehicle*



*SPC Fabacher from B CO Reenlists in Front of a Bradley Fighting Vehicle on FOB FALCON*

## PICTURES FROM AROUND THE AREA...



*LTC Osborne Meets with Leaders of the Al-Dulaymi Tribe*



*Children In an Iraqi School That We Visit*



*Helping Develop Trust Between the Iraqi People and the Iraqi Army*



*Sergeant Major Salinas (Right) Coordinates with Iraqi Forces to Block Access Roads Used by Insurgents near Baghdad*



*An Uparmored HMMWV at a Security Halt on a Highway Leading North into Baghdad*



*LTC Osborne Meets with Local Tribal Leaders*



*Eliminator and Iraqi Soldiers Working Together to Improve the Force Protection of a Checkpoint*



*One of the Many Canals in our Area—This is a Small One*



*PV2 Xiong Helps Local Iraqis Unearth a Broken Water Pipe in the Main Street of Hawar Rajab While on a Patrol*



*Iraqi Soldier on Patrol with Us*

## **HISTORY OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION, 22<sup>ND</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT**

The 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment was originally constituted on May 3rd, 1861 in the Regular Army as Companies A and I, 2nd Battalion, 13th Infantry. It organized in May 1865 as Companies A and I, 22nd Infantry.

Companies A and I, 22nd Infantry consolidated on May 4th, 1869 and the consolidated unit was designated as Company A, 22nd Infantry. The 22nd Infantry was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division on March 24, 1923. The unit was then inactivated on June 30, 1927 at Fort MacPherson, GA.

The unit reactivated on June 1, 1940 at Fort McClellan, AL before inactivating again at Camp Butner, NC on March 1, 1946 upon conclusion of World War II.

The battalion reactivated on July 15, 1947 at Fort Ord, CA. It reorganized and was redesignated on April 1, 1957 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battle Group, 22nd Infantry and remained assigned to the 4th Infantry Division. It was reorganized and redesignated on October 1, 1963 as the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry. It later inactivated in August of 1984 at Fort Carson, CO.

The unit reactivated in May 1986 at Fort Drum, NY and was assigned to the 10th Mountain Division (Light). Relieved from this assignment in February of 1996, the 1st Battalion was reassigned to the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, TX.

Soldiers from the battalion have served in combat in nearly every campaign in our nation's history including the Indian Wars, the Philippine Insurrection, World War I, World War II, Vietnam, Somalia, Bosnia, Haiti, and Iraq. The men and women of this battalion continue to serve the nation and uphold the standards established by our predecessors.

## ***Regulars, by God! Deeds, Not Words***



### **1ST BATTALION, 22ND INFANTRY MAILING ADDRESS**

**Soldier's Rank and Name**  
**\_\_ Company/1-22 IN**  
**Unit# 42506**  
**APO AE 09361-0256**

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**REAR DETACHMENT COMMANDER**  
**CPT WARREN LITHERLAND**

**REAR DETACHMENT NCOIC**  
**SFC HERNANDEZ**

**Phone (254) 288-2840**

The Rear Detachment Office is located in Building  
10002 on Battalion Avenue at Ft Hood—across from  
Bennett Health Clinic